



# M E D I A   R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **OUTSTANDING FAIRS HONORED AT 92<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION**

*- Fifty-six awards were given to top agricultural fairs -*

**NASHVILLE** – Tennessee Department of Agriculture Commissioner Julius Johnson recently presented awards to 56 of the state’s top county, regional and state agricultural fairs. They were recognized with the Merit Award for outstanding achievement during the 2013 fair season. More than 900 people attended the Fairs Merit Awards recognition dinner during the 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Tennessee Association of Fairs (TAF) held January 16 - 18 in Nashville.

The top award went to the Overton County Fair in Livingston when it was named the Champion of Champions Fair for 2013. The Overton County Fair was also recognized by Johnson and TAF President Stephen Potter, with the “Award of Merit” based on overall operations, educational value and promotion of local interest in agriculture and community spirit.

“Fairs are a wonderful way for families to bond and create life-long memories while experiencing the best our farms and communities have to offer,” said Johnson. “Our Tennessee fairs have a positive impact on local economies as well as on agriculture and education.”

The annual awards are sponsored by TDA and TAF, the state organization representing Tennessee’s fair industry.

### **2013 Fair Winners**

#### **Division A**

State Champion:	Sequatchie County Fair
1 <sup>st</sup> runner-up:	Fentress County Agricultural Fair
2 <sup>nd</sup> runner-up:	Trousdale County Fair
Most Improved:	Benton County Fair

**- MORE -**

ELLINGTON AGRICULTURAL CENTER  
BOX 40627, NASHVILLE, TN 37204  
[Tennessee.gov/agriculture](http://Tennessee.gov/agriculture)

## OUTSTANDING FAIRS HONORED AT 92<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION 2 - 2 - 2

### Division AA

State Champion: Rhea County Fair  
1<sup>st</sup> runner-up: Hardin County Fair  
2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up: Middle Tennessee District Fair  
Most Improved: Dickson County Fair

### Division AAA

State Champion Williamson County Fair  
1<sup>st</sup> runner-up: Greene Country Fair  
2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up: Wilson County Fair  
Most Improved: Anderson County Fair

### Premiere Awards (Previous Winners' Category)

Champion of Champion: Henry County Fair  
Division AA: Cocke County Fair  
Division AAA: Sevier County Fair

In the Regional Division, the Appalachian Fair and the Tennessee Valley Fair received "Award of Merit." The Tennessee State Fair also received "Award of Merit" based on overall fair operations. The regional fairs and the State Fair are not in competition with the county fairs for awards.

In 2013, almost three million visitors attended county, regional, and state fairs in Tennessee. Fairs in Tennessee generated more than \$12 million in gross receipts last year. More than 14,700 volunteers from 63 fairs in the state devoted valuable time, resources and energy to fairs which had more than 130,000 agricultural exhibits, and more than 32,000 agricultural exhibitors showcasing livestock, farm crops and other agricultural exhibits.

The 16th Annual Fair Showcase, a statewide competition held during the convention, consisted of more than 400 entries from 38 fairs in 39 categories. Fairs competed for prize money, trophies and ribbons sponsored by the TDA and the TAF. Categories ranged from fair catalogs, websites and educational displays, to promotional videos, posters, scrapbooks, creative ideas and free-standing & table-top exhibits. To see a list of these winners, visit [www.picktnproducts.org](http://www.picktnproducts.org) or [www.tnfairs.com](http://www.tnfairs.com).

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\*Fair winners included in attached release.

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Fair Showcase Competition Winners  
January 2014**

<b>Category</b>	<b>1st Place</b>	<b>2nd Place</b>	<b>3rd Place</b>
<b>Premium Book</b>	Macon County Fair	Warren Co. Fair	Jefferson Co. Fair
<b>Premium Tabloid</b>	Wilson Co. Fair	Greene Co. Fair	Benton Co. Fair
<b>Fair Brochure</b>	Jefferson Co. Fair	Tennessee State Fair	Anderson Co. Fair
<b>Showbill</b>	Henry Co. Fair	Overton Co. Fair	Cocke Co. Fair
<b>Flyer</b>	Smith Co. Fair	Tennessee State Fair	Jefferson Co. Fair
<b>Fair Poster</b>	Williamson Co. Fair	Lauderdale Co. Fair	Clay Co. Fair
<b>Letterhead/Envelope</b>	Anderson Co. Fair	Williamson Co. Fair	Rhea Co. Fair
<b>Non-Premium Tabloid</b>	Putnam Co. Fair	Henry Co. Fair	Clay Co. Fair
<b>Scrapbook "A" Div.</b>	Bledsoe Co. Fair	Sequatchie Co. Fair	Overton Co. Fair
<b>Scrapbook "AA" Div.</b>	Rhea Co. Fair	Lincoln Co. Fair	Cocke Co. Fair
<b>Scrapbook "AAA" Div.</b>	Wilson Co. Fair	Jefferson Co. Fair	Cumberland Co. Fair
<b>Scrapbook Regional Div.</b>	Tenn. Valley Fair	----	----
<b>Pick Tenn. Products Exhibit Photo</b>	Sevier Co. Fair	Sequatchie Co. Fair	Coffee Co. Fair
<b>Decorative &amp; Ornamental gourds</b>	Jefferson Co. Fair	Sevier Co. Fair	Fentress Co. Fair
<b>Quilt - Hand Pieced &amp; Hand Quilted</b>	Tennessee State Fair	Lauderdale Co. Fair	Macon Co. Fair
<b>Quilt - Machine Pieced &amp; Machine Quilted</b>	Tennessee State Fair	Rhea Co. Fair	Sequatchie Co. Fair
<b>Quilt - Machine Pieced &amp; Hand Quilted</b>	Rhea Co. Fair	Tennessee State Fair	Sequatchie Co. Fair
<b>Fair Display - free standing</b>	Warren Co. Fair	---	---
<b>Fair Display - table top</b>	Wilson Co. Fair	Bledsoe Co. Fair	Rhea Co. Fair
<b>Other fair promotional items</b>	Cocke Co. Fair	Dickson Co. Fair	Overton Co. Fair
<b>Best Season Pass</b>	Sequatchie	Wilson Co.	Lincoln Co.

	Co. Fair	Fair	Fair
<b>Best Fair Theme</b>	Williamson Co. Fair	Overton Co. Fair	Lincoln Co. Fair
<b>Website</b>	Obion Co. Fair	Sevier Co. Fair	Rhea Co. Fair
<b>Video</b>	Rhea Co. Fair	Overton Co. Fair	Wilson Co. Fair
<b>Creative Fair Idea - Agricultural</b>	Rhea Co. Fair	Sevier Co. Fair	Franklin Co. Fair
<b>Creative Fair Idea - Other than agriculture</b>	Lauderdale Co. Fair	Wilson Co. Fair	Franklin Co. Fair
<b>Fair Hat - screen printed theme/logo</b>	Smith Co. Fair	Cocke Co. Fair	Sumner Co. Fair
<b>Fair Hat - embroidered theme/logo</b>	Wilson Co. Fair	Jefferson Co. Fair	Dickson Co. Fair
<b>Fair T-shirt - screen printed theme/logo</b>	Benton Co. Fair	Anderson Valley Fair	Clay Co. Fair
<b>Fair T-shirt - embroidered theme/logo</b>	Overton Co. Fair	Greene Co. Fair	Franklin Co. Fair
<b>Fair Shirt - Denim, theme/logo</b>	Rhea Co. Fair	Lauderdale Co. Fair	Cheatham Co. Fair
<b>Fair Shirt - Polo, theme/logo</b>	Tennessee Valley Fair	Putnam Co. Fair	Lincoln Co. Fair
<b>Fair Dress Shirt - Mens/Womens</b>	Cumberland Co. Fair	Dickson Co. Fair	Jefferson Co. Fair
<b>Recycled Product</b>	Franklin Co. Fair	Macon Co. Fair	Sequatchie Co. Fair
<b>Power Point Presentation</b>	Overton Co. Fair	Franklin Co. Fair	Wilson Co. Fair
<b>Most Outstanding Entry - Best of Show</b>	Rhea Co. Fair		
<b>Honorable Mention - Hand Pieced, Hand Quilted Postage Stamp Quilt</b>	Sequatchie Co. Fair		
For information on 2014 Tennessee fair dates, visit <a href="http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/marketing/fairs.shtml">http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/marketing/fairs.shtml</a>			

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